(d) Regulations for movement of vehicles in the Tiger Reserve have been issued vide State Government's letter dated 30-6-2001. Central Government is not aware of any proposal to change these regulations.

Endangered lion-tailed monkey

2540. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a special variety of monkey, called lion-tailed monkey, is getting vanished day-by-day in the forest areas near Kalakad inTirunelveli district in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how Government would prevent extinction of such a special variety of species in the area;

(d) whether this lion-tailed monkey is found in any other forest areas of the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIT.R. BAALU): (a) and (b)The state government of Tamil Nadu has reported that the population of lion-tailed monkey has maintained itself in the Kalakad forests in Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu. The numbers of lion-tailed monkeys counted during last two censuses in this area are as under—

Year of census	Numbers of Lion-tailed monkey counted
1998-99 2002-	340
03 (May)	338

(c) Central Government provides financial and technical assistance for conservation of the entire range of wild animals including lion-tailed monkey in Kalakad forests under centrally sponsored scheme "Project Tiger".

(d) and (e)The details of other forest areas in the country where lion-tailed monkey is found are as follows:

Tamil Nadu	Kamataka	Kerala
Indira Gandhi WLS& adjoining Forests	KudremukhWLS& adjoining Forests	Salient Valley Forests
	SomeswaraWLS& Adjoining Forests	Parambikulam Forests
	MookambikaWLS & adjoining Forests	Shendurney Forests Periyar Forests Nelliyampathy Forests Malayattoor Forests Nilambur Forests Ranni Forests

Ban on cutting Babool tree in Chhattisgarh

†2541. SHRI MOTILALVORA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Babool does not grow naturally in any of the forest areas in Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the reasons for the ban on cutting of Babool wood;

(c) whether Government wouid permit relaxation in restrictions keeping in view the villagers' interests;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir. Natural forest of Babool is not found in the State of Chhattisgarh. However, Babool is found sporadically in the forests;

(b)There is no restriction on felling of Babool trees on private lands except those applicable to all other species of trees including Babool under the State Land Revenue Manual in public interest or for the purpose of prevention of soil erosion. Felling in forest land is governed by the provisions of approved working plans.

(c) to (e) Dot not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.